





Palazzo Mezzanotte

Historical and photographic account about Palazzo Mezzanotte, Borsa Italiana S.p.A. and Congress Center Services Headquarters.

Index:

History of the early Stock Exchange buildings in Milan	P. 3 e 4
XIX Century documents and bonds	P. 5 a 8
Palazzo Mezzanotte in 1932	P. 9 e 10
<i>Sala delle Grida</i> (outcry trading floor) during a trade session	P. 11 a 18
Palazzo Mezzanotte Underground with the Roman Ruins (from 1929 to 1994)	P. 19 e 20
Photographic Sources	P. 21 a 23

Milan Stock Exchange History

Palazzo Mezzanotte was built in 1932, to gather up all the stock markets spread all over Milan.

Until the end of Eighteenth Century negotiations took place in different squares, diffused in Milan. In 1808 a decree issued by the Viceroy Eugène Napoléon, son of Joséphine de Beauharnais, established the Milan Merchandise Exchange. The seat was in Monte della Pietà.

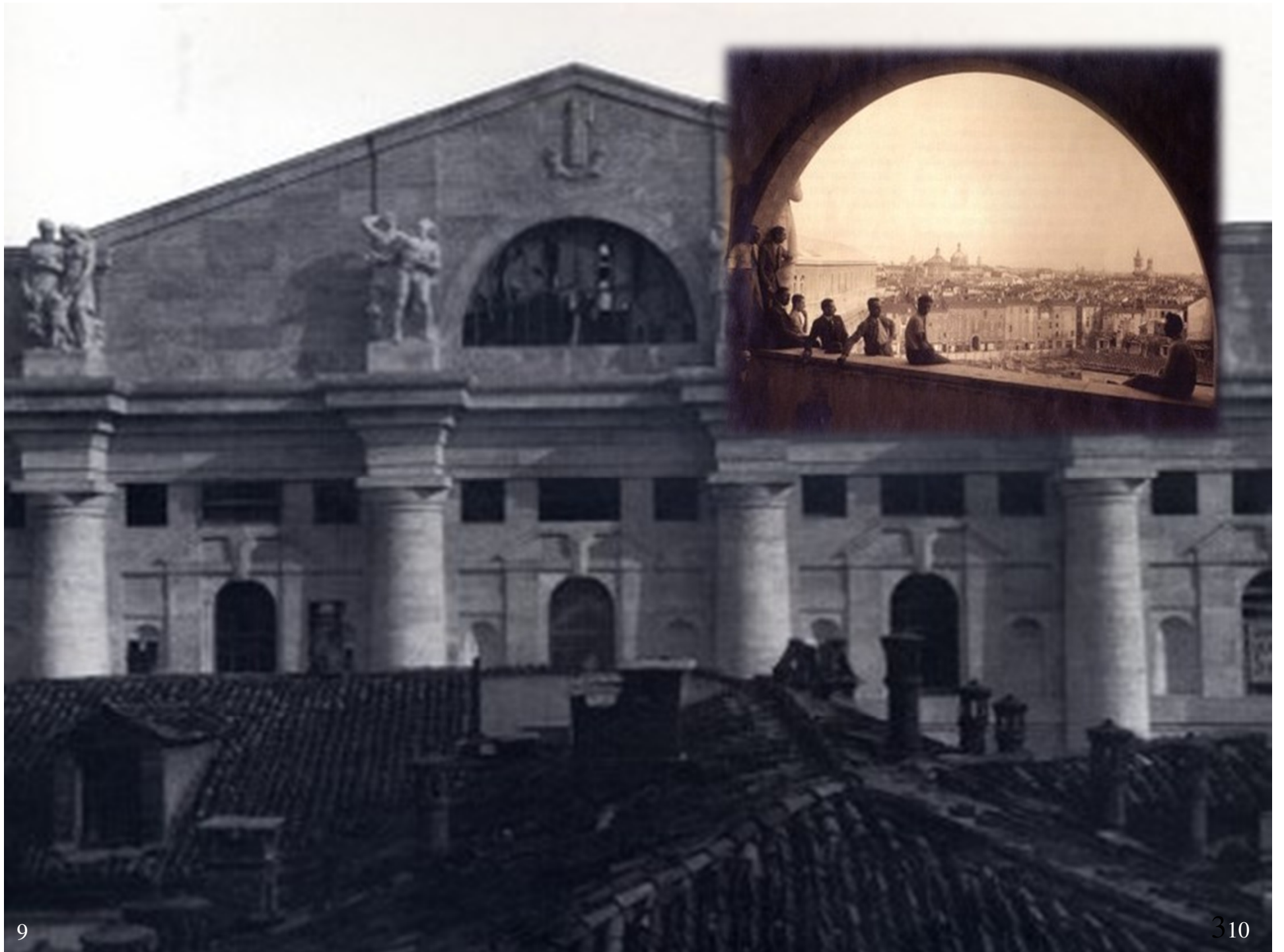
A new bigger trade place became necessary, due to the exponential growth of financial activities, increased in the early years of the Twentieth Century. In 1901 Palazzo Broggi, planned by the Architect Luigi Broggi was built in Piazza Cordusio.



With the constant development of financial operations Palazzo Broggi became inadequate. The new project was assigned to the Architect Palazzo Mezzanotte.

The impressive building of Palazzo Mezzanotte was celebrated in front of the Duce Benito Mussolini in 1932. It demonstrates the vivid interest of the Fascism for the new Italian Stock Exchange building. Its rationalistic traits still triumph over Piazza degli Affari square.

Tecnology affected also the trade: the «call floor» was completely revolutionized. The old mechanical display was replaced by a modern (and less affacinating) telematic system and the outcry trading floor was dismissed. It was converted into the Parterre. Nowadays the financial temple hosts also a multimedia Congress Center.





Left:
Palazzo Mezzanotte

Milan Stock
Exchange in the
1960s.

Right
Palazzo Mezzanotte

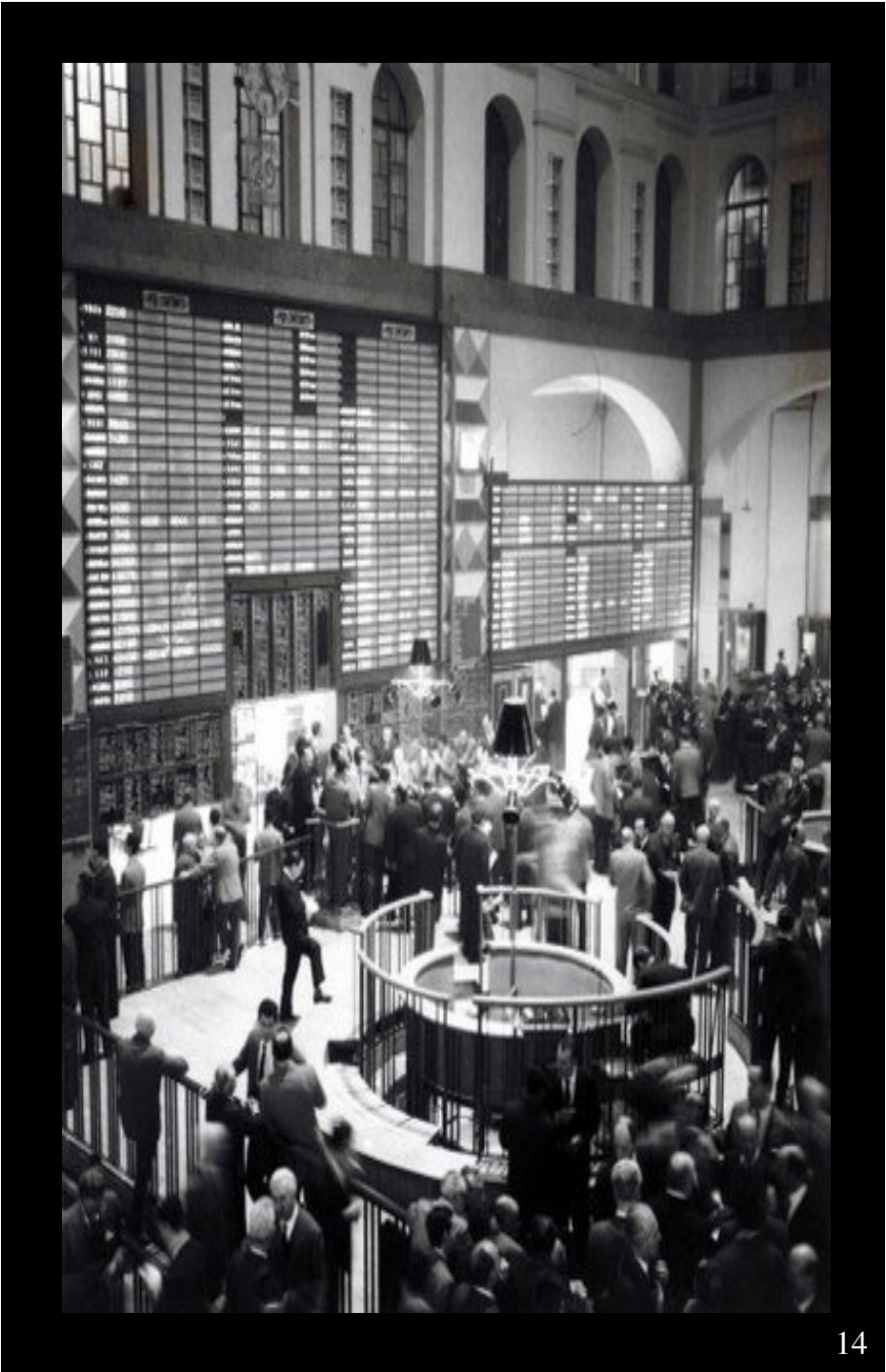
Sala delle Grida
(outcry trading
floor) of Palazzo
Mezzanotte during
negotiations.



On the side:
Palazzo Mezzanotte

Sala della Grida:
the Stock Exchange
electronic Center in
the late '60s.







Palazzo Mezzanotte
Sala delle Grida,
1960s

Sala delle Grida
Trading session in
Palazzo Mezzanotte

Stockbrokers next to
the corbeilles used for
opening and closing
calls in the «Ring A»
of the Parterre.

Palazzo Mezzanotte
Sala delle Grida,
1960s

The Parterre empty,
with the four open
outry rings. On the
right the area assigned
to the CEB (Centro
Elettonico di Borsa /
Stock Exchange
eletronic center).







Fotographic sources:

Cover: lit façade of Palazzo Mezzanotte, 2000

Pag.3 Palazzo Broggi in Piazza Cordusio, inside the trading hall (Borsa Italiana Archive)

Pag.4 Palazzo Affari Giureconsulti with glassed-in portico, 1856 (Borsa Italiana Archive)

Pag.5-6 Title deed handing over the Stock Exchange premises to the Trade Union, forntispiece and first page, 22 April 1859 (Camera di Commercio Archive)

Pag.5 Compagnia Generale dei Canali Italiani di Irrigazione. Canale Cavour, share, 1862 (Borsa Italiana Archive)

Pag.6 Compagnia Reale delle Ferrovie Sarde, bond, 1878 (Borsa Italiana Archive)

Pag.7 Stock Exchange notice with names of authorised brokers, 8 October 1867 (Milan Chambre of Commerce Archive)

Pag.8 Announcement of a competition for a broker position, 15 February 1854, (Milan Chambre of Commerce Archive)

Pag.9-10 Palazzo Mezzanotte. View of he tympanum. In the foreground, the roof of the block that was demolished to open up Piazza degli Affari, c.a. 1932, from «La Borsa di Milano. Dalle Origini a Palazzo Mezzanotte», - Milan Chambre of Commerce -

Pag.10 Palazzo Mezzanotte. View of Milan from the tympanum window, 20 giugno 1931 (Milan Chambre of Commerce Archive)

Pag.11 Italian Stock Exchange in Milan, Palazzo Mezzanotte entrance, 1960s, (Borsa Italiana Archive)

Pag.12 Italian Stock Exchange in Milan, Palazzo Mezzanotte, several perspectives of the Parterre, 1980s (Borsa Italiana Archive)

Pag.13 Italian Stock Exchange in Milan, Palazzo Mezzanotte, stockbrokers on the phone, 1986, Olympia (Borsa Italiana Archive)

Pag.14 Italian Stock Exchange in Milan , the Parterre with the «Ring A» in the foreground, one of the two corbeilles used for opening and closing calls, 1962, Olympia (Borsa Italiana Archive)

Pag.15 Italian Stock Exchange in Milan, Parterre of Palazzo Mezzanotte during a trading session, 1960s (Borsa Italiana Archive)

Pag.16 Italian Stock Exchange in Milan, Parterre of Palazzo Mezzanotte, stockbrokers during negotiations, 1960s (Borsa Italiana Archive)

Pag.16 Palazzo Mezzanotte, the Parterre empty, with the four open outcry rings. On the right, behind the display board, the area designed to the CEB (Centro elettronico della Borsa/ Stock Exchange electronic centre), late 1960s, (Borsa Italiana Archive)

Pag.17 Italian Stock Exchange in Milan, Palazzo Mezzanotte, staff assigned to updating the mechanical display board, 1981, Roiter (Borsa Italiana Archive)

Pag.18 Italian Stock Exchange in Milan, Palazzo Mezzanotte, members of the public watching from «Parco Buoi» (Bullpen) an exchange session, 1960s, (Borsa Italiana Archive)

Pag. 17 - 18 Italian Stock Exchange, Sala delle Grida (outcry trading floor) during trading calls, late 1980s, (Borsa Italiana Archive)

Pag.19 Italian Stock Exchange, Palazzo Mezzanotte, the Roman Ruins discovered during the construction of Palazzo Mezzanotte, January 1929 (Chambre of Commerce of Milan Archive)

Pag.19 Italian Stock Exchange, Palazzo Mezzanotte, the Underground floor decorated with artistic Majolica designed by Giò Ponti, 1932 (Chambre of Commerce Archive)

Pag.19 Italian Stock Exchange, Palazzo Mezzanotte, stockbrokers workstations in the Underground after the restoration, 15 July 1994, Olympia (Borsa Italiana Archive)

Pag. 20 Italian Stock Exchange, Palazzo Mezzanotte, the premiums market in the Underground, 1990s (Borsa Italiana Archive).